AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins
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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE
ANS-173

The AMSAT News Service bulletins are a free, weekly news and information service of AMSAT, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS publishes news related to Amateur Radio in Space including reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

The news feed on http://www.amsat.org publishes news of Amateur Radio in Space as soon as our volunteers can post it.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to:
ans-editor at amsat.org.

You can sign up for free e-mail delivery of the AMSAT News Service Bulletins via the ANS List; to join this list see:
http://www.amsat.org/mailman/listinfo/ans

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ANS-173 AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 173.01
From AMSAT HQ KENSINGTON, MD.
DATE June 21, 2020
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-173.01

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election ended June 15. The following candidates have been found to have their membership in good standing and their nomination credentials in order:

Howard DeFelice, AB2S
Mark Hammond, N8MH
Jeff Johns, WE4B
Robert McGwier, N4HY
Bruce Paige, KK5DO
Paul Stoetzer, N8HM

This year, AMSAT will be electing three voting members of the Board of Directors. These will go to the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes. In addition, there will be two alternates chosen, based on the next highest number of votes received.

Further details regarding the mechanics of the election will appear in ANS in the near future. Ballots will be mailed to the AMSAT membership by July 15th based on a membership list that will be generated as early as July 1. Members are encouraged to use the AMSAT Membership Portal at launch.amsat.org to verify that their membership is in good standing and their mailing address is correct.

[ANS thanks Brennan Price, N4QX, AMSAT Secretary, for the above information]

AMSAT Announces GridMaster Award

Bruce Paige, KK5DO, AMSAT Director and Contest and Awards Manager, announced AMSAT is now the official sponsor of the GridMaster Award, effective June 15, 2020. This award was first introduced in 2014 by the Star Comm Group. AMSAT thanks Damon Runion, WA4HFN, and Rick Tillman, WA4NVM, for not only developing and sponsoring this award since its inception, but, also, entrusting AMSAT with the honor of carrying on this important award for the benefit of the entire AMSAT community.

The GridMaster Award is available to all amateurs worldwide who submit proof with written confirmation of contacts with each of the 488 maidenhead grids located within the 48 contiguous United States of America.

Two-way communication must be established via amateur satellite with each grid. There is no minimum signal report required.

Contacts must be made from the same location, or from locations no two of which are more than 200 kilometers apart. The applicant’s attestation in the award application serves as affirmation of abidance to the distance rule. There are no endorsements and no recognized tiers of progression; however, amateur operators may apply for and be granted multiple GridMaster awards, when operating from separate and unique 200-kilometer circles.

A numbered and dated certificate will be awarded to each person who qualifies for the award at no cost. In addition, awardees may purchase an engraved plaque to commemorate their achievement.

Since its introduction, ten amateur satellite operators have claimed the title of Grid Master:

01 John Papay, K8YSE
02 Doug Papay, KD8CAO
03 Rick Tillman, WA4NVM
04 Glenn Miller, AA5PK

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  05 Clayton Coleman, W5PFG
  06 Alvaro De Leon R., XE2AT
  07 Fernando Ramirez, NP4JV
  08 Ron Oldham, N8RO
  09 Randy Kohlwey, WI7P
  10 Frank Westphal, K6FW

So, who will be awarded AMSAT's GridMaster Certificate No. 11?
Are you up for the challenge?

Please visit amsat.org/gridmaster/ for further details.

[ANS thanks Bruce Paige, KK5DO, AMSAT Director of Contests and Awards
for the above information]

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CAS-6 Online

The CAS-6 V/UHF antenna has been deployed today. Due to some OBC failures,
CW beacon and GMSK telemetry are not working properly. At present, only the
carriers are transmitted on the two frequencies, the linear transponder has
been put into operation. We will then try to diagnose and then determine
whether the CW and telemetry data stream transmission can be recovered.

CW Telemetry Beacon:               145.910MHz
AX.25 4.8kbps GMSK Telemetry:      145.890MHz
U/V Linear Transponder Downlink:   145.925MHz, 20kHz bandwidth, Inverted
U/V Linear Transponder Uplink:     435.280MHz

TLE:

CAS-6(2019-093C)
1 44881U 19093C   20170.81187924 -.00001118  00000-0 -13581-3 0  9991
2 44881  97.9575 246.8556 0015830  36.2280 323.9959 14.81412013 26893

[ANS thanks Alan Kung, BA1DU for the above information]

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AMSAT's GOLF Program is about getting back to higher orbits, and it
all begins with GOLF-TEE – a technology demonstrator for deployable
solar panels, propulsion, and attitude control. Come along for the
ride. The journey will be worth it!

                  https://tinyurl.com/ANS-GOLF

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Amicalsat - Aurora Pictures

The Vega rocket (VV16) was scheduled to launch from Kourou on 19 June
2020 01:51:10 GMT with 53 satellites on board. Due to wind conditions
this launch has been delayed until at least 21 June.

One of the satellites that will be leaving is the Amicalsat satellite
built by the CSUG (Centre Spatial Universitaire Grenoblois). The
measurements made by the satellite will be available to all. They
will allow radio amateurs to use them for propagation predictions.

The project's website (in English) has just been put online:
http://amicalsat.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/.

The Amsat-Francophone supported this project:
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http://site.amsat-f.org/amicalsat/

Software (Linux & Windows) is provided for decoding the telemetry and sending it to the database (SatNogs). The user manual is available (in English)

https://tinyurl.com/Amicalsat-User-Manual

Beacon *Frequency* *Modes* *Callsign*
UHF 436.1 MHz AFSK 1200 RS17S
S band 2,415.3 MHz GFSK 1000 kb/s
http://amsat-f.org/AMSATLIST/SatellitePage/UK/0Amicalsat.html

Reports are welcome. Thank you for your help.

[ANS thanks Christophe Mercier, AMSAT-F Chairman for the above information]

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of the telemetry decoder after a shutdown or reboot of the Raspberry Pi, therefore making it suitable for a remote deployment situation.

*Both modes, when connected to the internet, will upload the received data to the FUNcube Data Warehouse and the totals displayed on the Ranking Page in the normal manner.

*Uploading to the warehouse requires online registration with the FUNcube Data Warehouse.

All the code for the telemetry decoder, and the scripts to build the Docker images, are now published online under a GPL Open Source License at the FUNcube-Dev GitHub account https://github.com/funcube-dev

Alternatively, it possible to buy a pre-formatted microSD card for the Pi from the AMSAT-UK shop at https://shop.amsat-uk.org/

Full instructions PDF can be downloaded from https://tinyurl.com/RPi-FUNcube-Decoder

FUNcube Data Warehouse http://warehouse.funcube.org.uk/missions

[ANS thanks AMSAT-UK for the above information]

ORI Announces ARRL Foundation Grant Award

ORI, a 501(c)(3) dedicated to open source research and development in amateur radio, has been awarded a $3,000 grant from the ARRL Foundation. This grant, the maximum amount, will be immediately applied to Phase 1 of the Digital Multiplex Transponder research and development program. This grant allows hardware prototypes for broadband microwave digital payloads to proceed much more quickly.

Established in 1973 by the American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL) as an independent and separate 501(c)(3) organization, the ARRL Foundation administers programs to support the Amateur Radio community.

Funded entirely by the generous contributions of radio amateurs and friends, ARRL Foundation administers programs for Amateur Radio award scholarships for higher education, award grants for Amateur Radio projects, and award special Amateur Radio program grants for The Victor C. Clark Youth Incentive Program and The Jesse A. Bieberman Meritorious Membership Program.

[ANS thanks Michelle Thompson, W5NVY, CEO and Director, ORI for the above information]

ORI Announces YASME Foundation Grant Award

ORI, a 501(c)(3) dedicated to open source research and development in amateur radio, has been awarded a $30,000 grant from the Yasme Foundation. This grant completes the Phase 1 fundraising campaign and allows ORI’s communications prototype work for geosynchronous and interplanetary amateur radio satellites to proceed.

The Yasme Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation organized to support scientific and educational projects related to amateur radio, including DXing (long distance communication) and the

introduction and promotion of amateur radio in developing countries. Yasme supports various projects relating to amateur radio, with an emphasis on developing amateur radio in emerging countries and encouraging youth participation in amateur radio.

The Yasme Foundation makes supporting grants to individuals and organizations providing or creating useful services for the amateur radio community. Regardless of originality or novelty, Yasme supports these programs in order to further the development of amateur radio around the world.

[ANS thanks Michelle Thompson, W5NVY, CEO and Director, ORI for the above information]

38th Annual AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual General Meeting Moving to Virtual Event

The 38th Annual AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual General Meeting in-person event scheduled to be held in Bloomington, Minnesota has been canceled. The event will be shifted to a virtual, online platform. This comes after a decision made between AMSAT's Senior Leadership and Board of Directors in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While AMSAT recognizes the national challenges related to recent events in Minneapolis, they have no bearing on the Symposium decision whatsoever. We anticipate holding the 2021 Annual Space Symposium at the previously announced 2020 venue.

The in-person event was scheduled to occur Friday, October 16 through Sunday, October 18. As the 2020 virtual event plans are developed, they will be announced via the usual AMSAT channels.

[ANS thanks the AMSAT Office for the above information]

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+ The following satellite has decayed from orbit and has been removed
  From this week's AMSAT-NA TLE Distribution: 1KUNS-PF - NORAD
  Cat ID 43466 (Decayed from orbit June 11, 2020 per
  Space-Track).

+ A new organization, the National Radio Society of Ireland (NRSI) has
  has been newly founded this year, 2020. Membership is open to all
  amateur radio operators and shortwave listeners who are either full-
  time residents or who have, in the past, spent a minimum of two
  months in Ireland as a visitor. NRSI became member association of
  the European Radio Amateurs' Organization (EURAO) on June 11. For
  details, see https://www.nrsi.ie
  [ANS thanks EURAO for the above information]

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In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership in the
President's Club. Members of the President's Club, as sustaining
donors to AMSAT Project Funds, will be eligible to receive addi-
tional benefits. Application forms are available from the AMSAT
Office.

Primary and secondary school students are eligible for membership
at one-half the standard yearly rate. Post-secondary school students
enrolled in at least half time status shall be eligible for the stu-
dent rate for a maximum of 6 post-secondary years in this status.
Contact Martha at the AMSAT Office for additional student membership
information.

73 and Remember to help keep amateur radio in space,

This week's ANS Editor,

Casey Tucker, KI7UNJ
ki7unj at amsat dot org